

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims in the manner indicated:

1. (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:  
a bus to facilitate data transfers between clients; and  
an arbiter coupled to the bus to grant bus access to one of the clients at a time based on a programmable priority assigned to at least some of the clients and on an age of an ungranted bus request;  
wherein the clients include master clients and target clients, wherein the arbiter is to alternate granting bus access to a requesting one of the master clients and a requesting one of the target clients.
2. (cancelled)
3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the arbiter is to grant bus access to a requesting one of the target clients based on round-robin arbitration.
4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the arbiter is to grant bus access to a requesting one of the master clients based at least partly on hierarchical arbitration.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the arbiter comprises a programmable storage structure to store the programmable priority.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:  
the age is indicated by a number of clock cycles since the ungranted bus request; and  
the arbiter comprises logic to contain an indicator of the number of clock cycles.
7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:  
the age is indicated by an elapsed time since the ungranted bus request; and  
the arbiter comprises logic to contain an indicator of the elapsed time.
8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bus is to use a split-transaction data transfer protocol.
9. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the arbiter comprises a centralized arbiter.
10. (currently amended) A method, comprising:  
determining which pending bus requests from clients have a highest programmable hierarchical priority and a greatest time interval since requesting access to a bus, based on an algorithm; and  
granting access to the bus based on said determining and on existence of ~~at least one special condition consisting of at least one of a bus lock condition, a sleep entry condition, and a lock out condition.~~

11. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising limiting said determining to retried pending bus requests.
12. (cancelled)
13. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said determining further comprises determining priority based on order of physical connection among the clients, responsive to multiple clients having the highest programmable hierarchical priority and the greatest time interval since requesting access to the bus based on the algorithm.
14. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein:  
said determining is applied to the pending bus requests from master clients; and  
bus requests from target clients are handled separately from said determining.
15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the bus requests from the target clients are arbitrated using round robin priority.
- 16-20. (cancelled)